

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

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ARA

ACTION: AmEmbassy MADRID PRIORITY 3890
RPTD INFO: AmEmbassy THE HAGUE 312/2
AmEmbassy PARIS for USPO 250800

We have report that Iberia plans resume Habana flights on November 17. Embassy in its discretion should approach GOS at highest appropriate level and if Iberia in fact plans resume, Embassy should state that USC considers voluntary indefinite suspension Iberia service to Habana would be important step in achieving isolation of Cuba from Free World since Iberia decision not resume would deprive Cuba all Free World air service and force bloc wholly rely on its own air transport carry personnel and cargo to Cuba. Isolation demonstrates Free World unity in face aggressive international Communist conspiracy and serves restrict Cuba subversive activities now threatening peace and security Western Hemisphere. In your discussion with GOS, you should draw on material this message:

(1) PAA has suspended flights to Habana in conformance NOTAM issued by US authorities on October 24 directing all US state owned or US registered aircraft avoid Cuban air space except with prior approval Secretary Defense. PAA does not plan propose resumption. We have been informed Mexicana does not plan resume unprofitable Habana operation. Mexicana has also stated that conditions remain hazardous Habana and raises question insurance coverage case accident or mishap. We are further informed KLM does not plan resume at this time.

Drafted by: ARA/CMA:RFollestad:da 11/15/62

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(2) Cuban regime has reiterated recent days continued alligiance to and dependence on USSR. Cuban objective subvert established govts Western Hemisphere unchanged. While GOS presumably alert to bloc activities, Cubans and their Latin American associates at times travel to and from Soviet Union and Satellite for Communist purposes. Elimination Iberian service would be inhibiting factor attainment their objective.

(3) We recognize suspension service could cause some loss revenue Iberia. However, we understand Habana operation may not have proved wholly profitable Iberia and airline may find this minor factor in any decision not to resume service.

FBI: Embassy should avoid at this time linking suspension Habana service with matter discussed EmbTel 553. Latter under study Department. END FYI

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